Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claim 26. The changes in this claim from its immediate prior version are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ or [[double brackets]] for deleted matter and underlines for added language. A complete listing of the claims with proper claims identifiers follows. This listing replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in the application.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside and combinations thereof is mixed with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame before it is applied in the rolling compound.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26 wherein an additional high-potency sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, alitame, salts of acesulfame, cyclamate and its salts, saccharin and its salts, sucralose, thaumatin, monellin, dihydrochalcone, glycyrrhizin, stevioside, and combinations thereof is mixed with the N-substituted derivative of aspartame in the coating.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is applied as a part of a rolling compound applied on the chewing gum product.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

26. (Currently amended) A method of producing a chewing gum product containing a N-substituted derivative of aspartame wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is applied as a part of a coating on a chewing gum pellet, the coating being formed by a panning procedure.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame is selected from the group consisting of:

a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;

b) N-[N-[3-(4-hydroxy-3-menthoxyphenyl)propyl]-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

c) N-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the N-substituted derivative of aspartame comprises N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.